

## RANCH ROUNDUP

### SEVEN DEVILS LODGE

Council, Idaho ·  
208-253-3014, [sevendevislodge.com](http://sevendevislodge.com)



AT THE SEVEN DEVILS LODGE in Council, Idaho, the Old West meets outdoor adventure. A Seven Devils vacation is one where you can snowmobile with a side of cowboy hospitality, white water raft one day and ride all day the next, or hunt elk on one of the oldest ranches in the northwest.

The lodge is located on the historic OX ranch, and surrounded by some of the most uniquely varied scenery Idaho has to offer—jutting canyons, high desert, and soaring mountains. The nearby Seven Devils Range and Hells Canyon—the deepest river gorge in North America—offer endless opportunities for outdoorsmen. The blend of traditional ranch activities and adrenaline-pumping outdoor sports make for an unforgettable Western adventure, in any season.

The summer is guest ranch season, which offers fishing, hiking, boating, paddleboarding, shooting at gun lodge's ranges (check out the new 3D archery range), and, of course, horseback riding. Ranch manager D.R. Bledsoe is especially proud of the horsemanship program, where guests are given individual instruction from the ground up, and are paired with finely-tuned working ranch horses.

"We take the time to teach our guests true horsemanship so they can fully appreciate the

Western experience," he says. "After all, I want folks riding my horses right!"

In the fall and spring, guests can book guided hunts for elk, deer, and bear. Don't let the word "guided" scare you off—there's no hand-holding on these hunts through 18,000 acres of Idaho wilderness.

"I treat every hunt like I'm hunting with a buddy," says Bledsoe. "I let every hunter use their instincts. It's their hunt, I just know the terrain and set them up to be successful."

Fresh winter snow and backcountry access provide the perfect playground for snowmobilers, who can kick off their boondocking adventure from the lodge's front door.

Regardless of their chosen activity, the 8–12-person guest capacity means guests always receive one-on-one attention from highly-skilled guides. Bledsoe says, "Whether it's riding a horse, learning how to snowmobile, or shooting a gun, we teach people the right way. We take the time to make sure guests are comfortable and confident with whatever new skill they're learning."

The small group size also means close camaraderie between guests and the staff.

"They may arrive as guests and strangers," says Bledsoe, "but they all leave as friends."

